

One glaring example of Bush corruption came when President Bush nominated a former lobbyist, David Safavian, as the Chief Procurement Officer for the Federal Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Safavian had limited experience with procurement when President Bush chose him for that powerful position. What he did have, however, were strong connections to powerful Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff. The two lobbyists, Safavian and Abramoff, shared clients at the firm where they worked in the early 1990s. Later, through his position at the GSA, Safavian helped Abramoff lease Federal property for office space. In exchange, Abramoff took Safavian on an expensive golf trip to Scotland.

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Not surprisingly, Mr. Speaker, David Safavian was arrested last month for obstructing a Federal examination into Jack Abramoff's questionable business dealings with Washington Republicans. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Safavian was a multibillion-dollar Hurricane Katrina contract awardee.

Together, America, we can do better.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a fiscal conservative, and, more importantly, as a Member who believes in making the tough choices and tightening the belt of the Federal budget. Every American family knows that you do not spend money on big purchases unless you have a way to pay for it. Yet our Federal Government does this every day.

There are two ways to get our fiscal house back in order: we can raise taxes, as some of our colleagues across the aisle have suggested; or we can rein in government spending. Well, we Republicans believe that American families already pay too high a price in taxes, and we know that there are too many places where our bureaucracy is bloated and our programs are redundant and ineffective.

So rather than making the American taxpayers shoulder the burden of excessive Federal spending, I say we put the weight on ourselves, the Congress, and work our hardest to cut the fat out of the Federal budget.

I believe that government should tailor its spending to accommodate lower taxes, rather than tailoring its taxes to accommodate higher spending called for by the Democrats. Now is the time to treat our Federal budget as we would our household budget. We need to make the tough decisions.

WORRYING ABOUT THE REST OF AMERICA

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, that was an interesting speech, but it defies reality. If the government eliminated every general fund program, everything the government does except the Department of Defense, guess what? We would still have a deficit. We would still be borrowing money.

The Republicans are borrowing \$1.2 billion a day to run the government, and now they are the party of fiscal responsibility, and, oh, it is those poor working people they are concerned about. Except what they do not talk about is the tax cuts they are talking about, the ones that would cost \$70 billion and increase the deficit, flow predominantly to people who earn over \$300,000 a year, mostly over \$1 million a year, and to estates worth more than \$6 million. That is the hard-working families they are worried about, one-tenth of 1 percent of the people in America.

Well, I am worried about the rest of America who are getting screwed by these kinds of priorities.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC GROWTH POLICIES WORKING

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, we are soon going to debate how we pay for the relief for the devastating hurricanes that hit our gulf coast. There are only three ways: Either, number one, we are going to raise taxes yet again on the American people; number two, we are going to pass debt on to our children; or, number three, we are going to moderate the growth of the Federal budget so that families do not have to moderate the growth of their budget.

Now, you have heard the Democrats claim that somehow the Republicans want to cut, slash, and burn the Federal budget. Since I have been on the face of the planet, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget. How much Federal Government do we need? And even if we offset all of this hurricane spending, what most people view as mandatory welfare spending will end up growing at 6.3 percent, instead of 6.4 percent.

Compassion for the poor is not measured by the number of government checks you print. It is measured by the number of jobs you create. Under tax relief policies and economic growth policies of this administration and this Republican Congress, we have created over 4 million new jobs so that families can go out and do their spending and create their American Dream.

TIME TO END IRAQ WAR

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today we mark another sad milestone in our involvement in Iraq with the announcement that 2,000 Americans have died.

It is time to end this war. This war was based on fiction: there were no weapons of mass destruction, no ties to al Qaeda, no imminent threat. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on this war. We are bankrupting our Nation.

Great nations, Mr. Speaker, sometimes make mistakes, as I believe we have done in this case. This war was a mistake. It is wrong; let us fix it. America can do better. Not one more dollar, not one more death.

ENDING FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as a State district judge for over 20 years in Texas, I presided over my fair share of frivolous lawsuits. I have seen firsthand the effect they have on small businesses and families.

The current tort system is costing Americans over \$200 million a year. Small businesses rank the cost and availability of liability insurance as second only to the cost of health care as their top priority. Both problems are fueled by frivolous lawsuits.

Frivolous lawsuits make small businesses and workers suffer. This year the Nation's oldest ladder manufacturer, family-owned John S. Tilley Ladders Company of New York, filed for bankruptcy protection and sold off most of its assets due to litigation costs.

Founded in 1855, the Tilley firm could not handle the cost of liability insurance, which had risen from 6 percent of sales a decade ago to 29 percent, even though the company never lost an actual court judgment. "We could see the handwriting on the wall and just want to end this whole thing," said Robert Howland, a descendant of the founder, John Tilley.

Mr. Speaker, let us put an end to frivolous lawsuits that are ruining the American Dream.

PRIORITIZING CUTS IN FEDERAL COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I note that the majority party is considering a number of actions to cut spending, including actions to cut back child health care under Medicaid and including actions to cut back SSI payments to disabled Americans.

I wonder if some of those same Members of Congress would be willing to eliminate Federal coverage for health care for Members of Congress before